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I hope the reading of this book will inspire many a young college man to consecrate his life to this work.

HENRY C. TAYLOR.

University of Wisconsin.

Elementary Principles of Agriculture. By A. M. FERGUSON and L. L. LEWIS. (Sherman, Texas: Ferguson Publishing Company, 1908. Pp. xv, 304. 75 cts.).

The authors deal with agriculture as a three-phase subject, a business, a science, and an art or craft. They approach it from the botanical side, dealing first with the morphology and physiology of plants in an elementary way, then with plants in relation to soils and moisture, and following with such matters as rotation of crops, propagation of plants, pruning and training of plants, and fungous diseases, insects, and birds in their relations to plants.

Several chapters of the text-book are devoted to animal husbandry types and breeds of cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, goats, and poultry, the nutrition of the animal body, and farm dairying; and several chapters to special topics, such as home grounds, school gardens, forestry, and farm machinery. An appendix contains lists of books on agriculture, formulas for insecticides and fungicides, tables relating to the composition of American feeding stuffs, the digestible nutrients and fertilizing constituents in stock feeds, feeding rations, and a glossary and index.

This text-book is intended by the authors for use in the common schools and is in many ways well adapted to that purpose. It is written in an interesting style, is well illustrated, and contains a considerable fund of information presented in pedagogical form. Its one weakness is that it contains no discussion of leading farm crops and their production. It presents "the elementary principles of agriculture" fairly well but does not give any application of those principles to the production of crops. This seems almost as incongruous as to present the subject of animal husbandry and leave out any specific consideration of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. The text-book would be greatly improved if a chapter were added dealing with cotton, corn, and some of the other staple crops

of the Southwest, for which section of the country this work was primarily prepared.

D. J. CROSBY.

Washington, D. C.

The Utilization of Wood Waste by Distillation. By WALTER B. HARPER. (St. Louis: Journal of Commerce Company. 1907. Pp. 157, with 74 illustrations. \$3 net).

This work deals chiefly with the physical and chemical principles relating to wood distillation and with the various forms of apparatus which have been devised for commercial use in carrying out the process. The descriptions are plainly written and profusely illustrated, and the literature of the subject seems to have been well searched and brought together. There has been available but little popular information on this subject and this book must prove of great use to those contemplating an essay into this field of industry.

Although it was written primarily for the man with immediate practical interest in the question, the book is of general interest as an illustration of the transition through which our country is now passing in many different lines of industry in beginning to use with greater care our abundant resources which have hitherto been profligately wasted.

The author states that fully 1,000,000 cords of wood are now wasted annually in the southern states which might be available as raw material for the process of wood distillation. This very apparent waste of material has led to the formation of many plans for its utilization by enthusiastic promoters, and it is to prevent fruitless attempts of this kind that the author devotes considerable space to a consideration of the conditions and factors which will determine whether any given projected plant will be a financial success or failure. This is the portion of the book of most general interest and includes a discussion of the effect of location, especially with regard to transportation and proximity to the raw material, the yields to be secured from different grades of raw material and their relative values, the extent of the demand for various re-